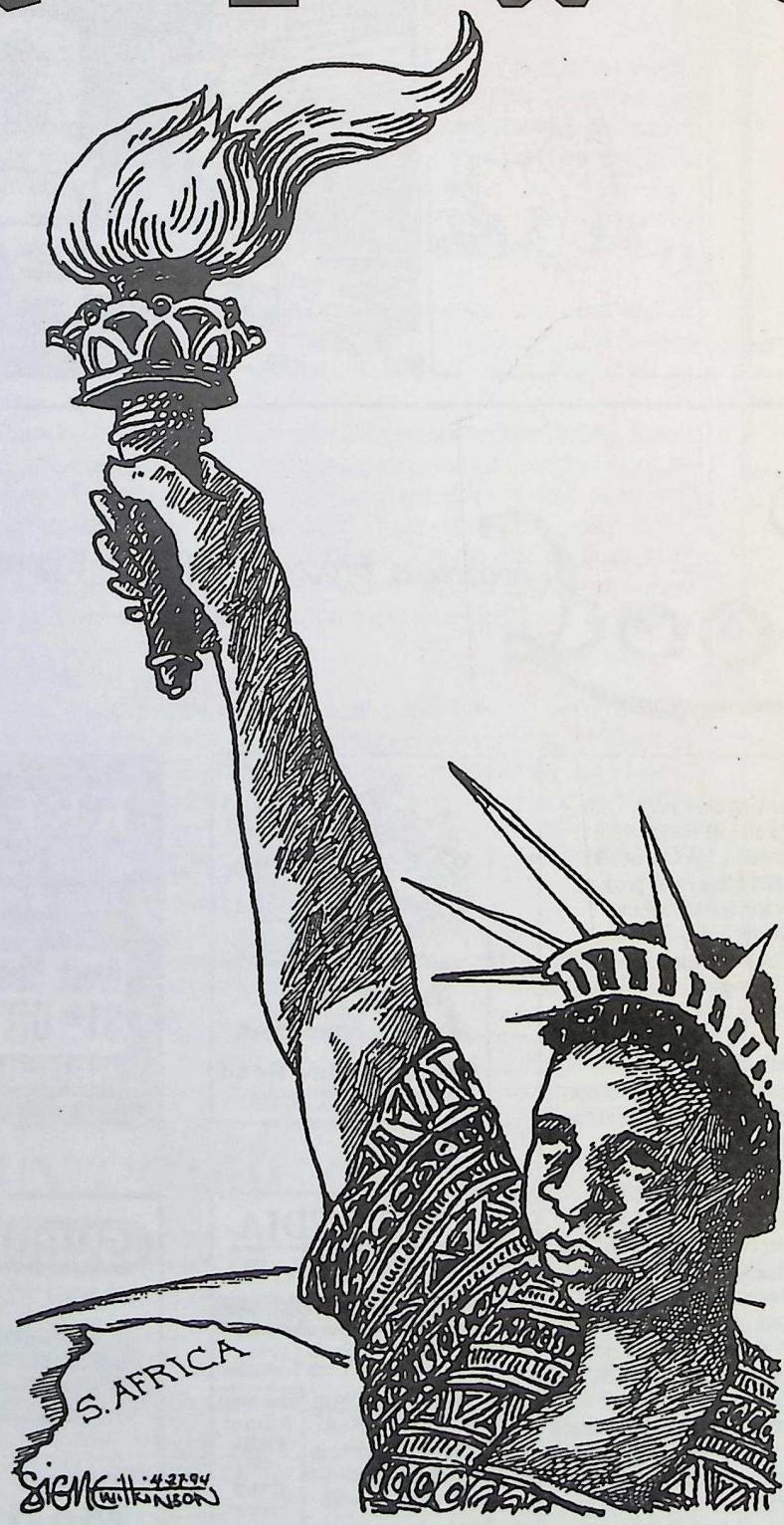


EPISODE #112
May 19, 1994

The Valley **COMIC** N • E • W • S



Cartoonists & Writers Syndicate

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STORIES:

BEYOND POLITIX
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OUT OF (SOUTH) AFRICA
THE TRICKMEISTER
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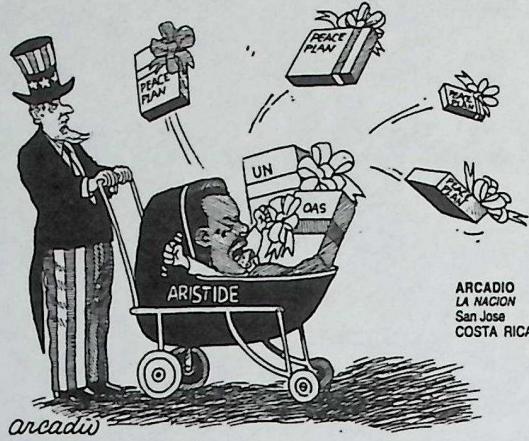
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FEATURES: THE FAR SIDE,
DOONESBURY,
CALVIN & HOBBS,
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JOE BOB BRIGGS, LEOLD,
THIS MODERN WORLD,
TAKE IT OR LEAVE IT,
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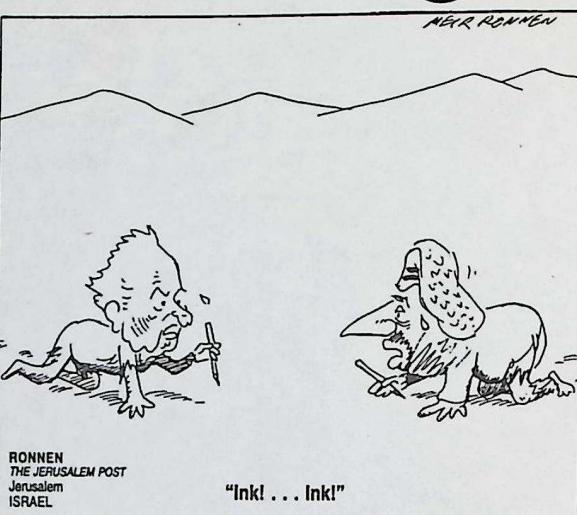
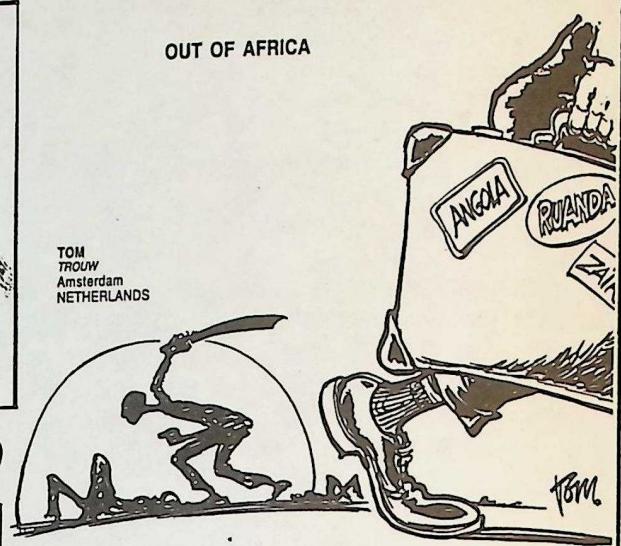


VIEWS OF THE WORLD

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OUT OF AFRICA



VIEWS of the WORLD

Food

Chives Summer Squash Lettuce Celery Green Beans Cucumbers Grapes Watermelon

Chili's Sweet Corn Bananas Oranges

Mushrooms Oregano Potatoes Peaches Plums Cherries Strawbe

Lemons Apples Pecans Raisins

Squash Watermelon Grapes Cucumbers

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- Atkins Country Store Fresh produce, delicious deli and scratch bakery products. Corner of Bay Road and Route 116, South Amherst, 253-9528
- Buffalo Bill's Original Buffalo Wings. Eat in or free local delivery: Sun-Wed 11-midnight; Thu-Sat 11-2am. 50 Main Street, Amherst, 253-9223
- Krete Specializing in the finest Greek cuisine. Free delivery. Beer and wine available. 331 Russell St. Rte. 9 Hadley 586-8255
- New India Restaurant Take out, Lunch Mon-Sun 11-3; Dinner Sun-Thu 3-10:30; Dinner Fri-Sat 3-11. 17 Kellogg Ave., Amherst 253-4200
- Pete's Drive-In Classic American Drive-In Cuisine plus soft-serve ice cream. Open all year. 287 Rte 9 Hadley
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TAILGATE
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South Hadley

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SUBWAY

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256-1919

PAGE THREE

by Mike Chrisman



Today Answer Guy responds to your questions about a troublesome topic: Finance.

Q: These days the papers and TV news are full of the terms "monetary policy," "bond market," and "interest-bearing marsupials." What do these mean, and should we be worried?

A: It's America in the '90s — *everyone* should be worried. "Monetary policies" and "bond markets" are secret societies, like the Freemasons or Jaycees. Although the ACLU and other liberal activists support these organizations' right to exist, most decent Americans are repelled by their constant interference in our lives. These two bodies were founded by members of The McLaughlin Group, who are the only ones privy to *all* the passwords ... although several *New York Times* columnists have to *pretend* they're in the know to keep their jobs. "Interest-bearing marsupials" means different things in different financial markets, but in this country it means "opossums, compounded monthly."

Q: My broker told me it was time to get out of municipals and into Ginnie Maes. Do you agree?

A: This is a family newspaper, and I will not respond to a question like yours. Contact *Penthouse* magazine, or "Hard Copy."

Q: My mutual fund is performing poorly. It comes home, eats in front of the TV, and goes to bed. I can't get interested in me at all, even when I put a hot Michael Milken tape in the VCR. Can you help?

A: It appears your relationship with this fund is not quite as mutual as you had hoped. Thousands of unhappy investors were initially lured into mutual funds by their attractive name. Yet once in a relationship, many investors have discovered only heartbreak, co-dependency, and financial ruin. To salvage whatever is left of your shattered life, you must get out *now*. Find a good financial therapist, and buy stock in Eli Lilly — they make Prozac.

Q: Why do bankers and accountants wear those goofy tassels on their loafers? In fact, why do they *wear* loafers? When I was a kid, we only wore loafers to hang around the house in ... you know, to *loaf*.

A: These are two very different questions. Bankers and accountants wear loafers because they need to be able to put their shoes on quickly whenever federal banking investigators burst into their offices, waving subpoenas and arrest warrants. The size of the tassel indicates the number of times the wearer has been indicted.

Q: I read about Hillary Rodham Clinton's making a killing in commodities trading. I don't understand how anybody could invest a thousand bucks in *anything* and get a hundred thousand in return ... much less *commodities*, which is stuff like cattle and hog bellies and soybean futures.

A: It's pretty straightforward, really. My sources (who refuse to be named) confirm that Hillary bought one steer for \$1,000 from a rancher in Bogota. By the time the steer got to Arkansas — along with the blister-packed four kilos of powdered commodity in its gut — there were three well-dressed guys with a bulging briefcase waiting to make a trade. What could be simpler?

Confidential to M.E.H.:

You "lost your shirt" because imports pushed bond prices lower in active trading. Unfortunately, bond prices pushed right back. Not to be outdone, imports brought in carloads of their friends (few of whom could speak any English) ... and before you could say "Dow Jones," security police had arrested 24 rioters and closed the New York markets three hours early. This incident will probably show those bond prices who's boss. Sorry about your shirt, though.

The Valley Comic News

P.O. Box 515, Northampton, MA 01061

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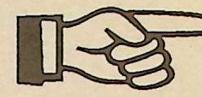
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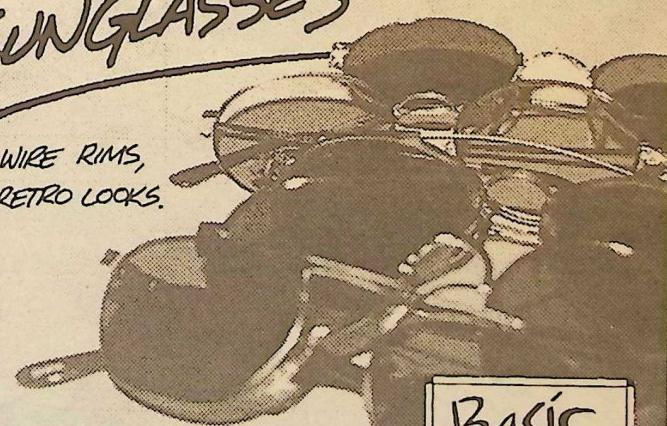
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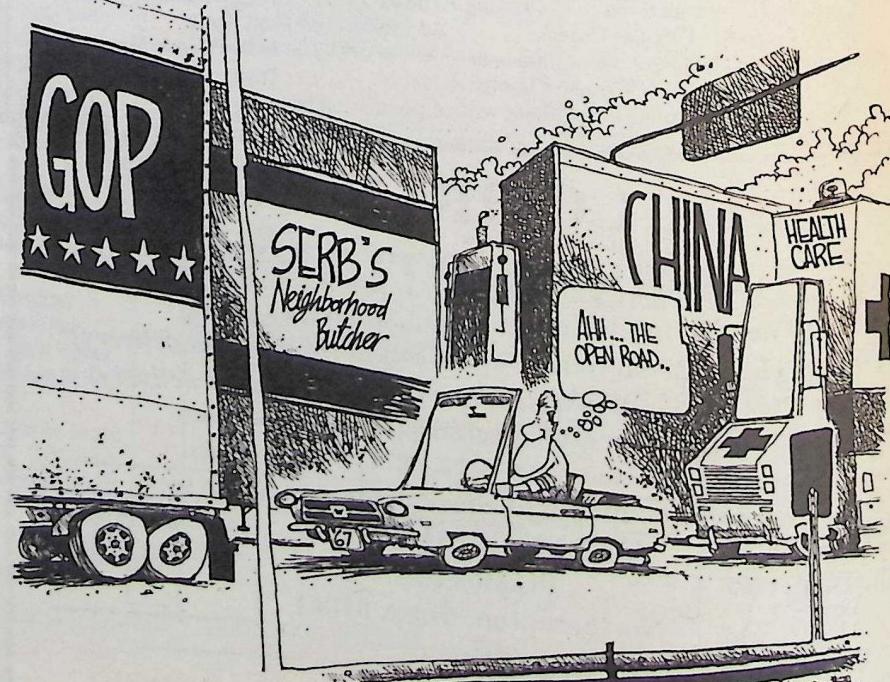
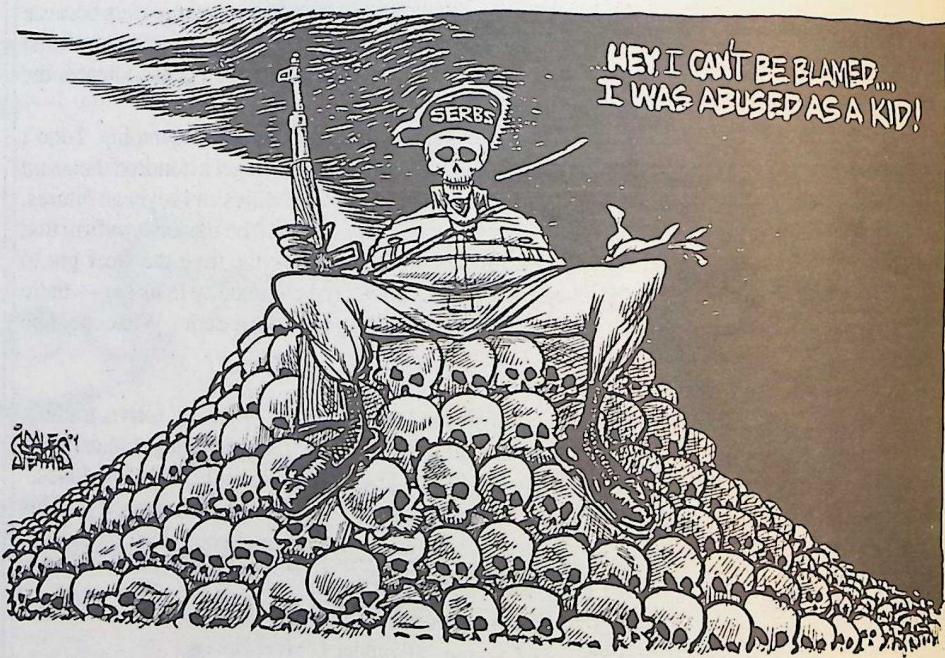
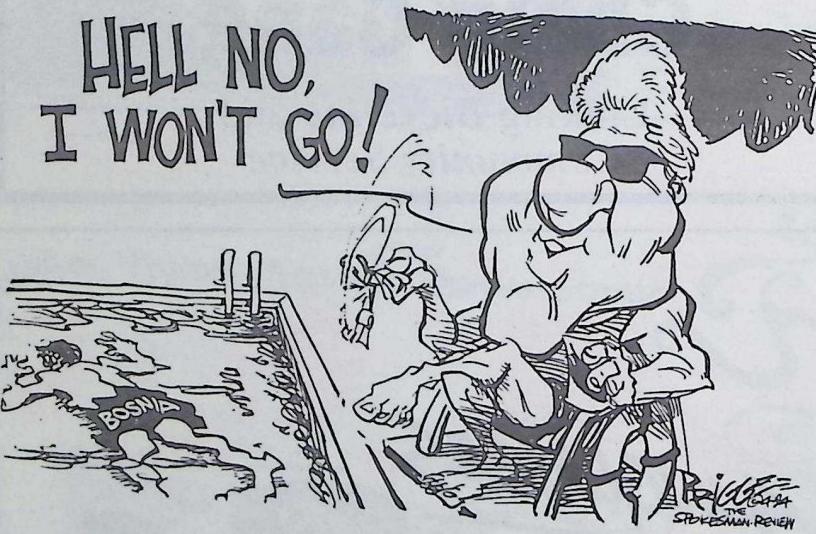
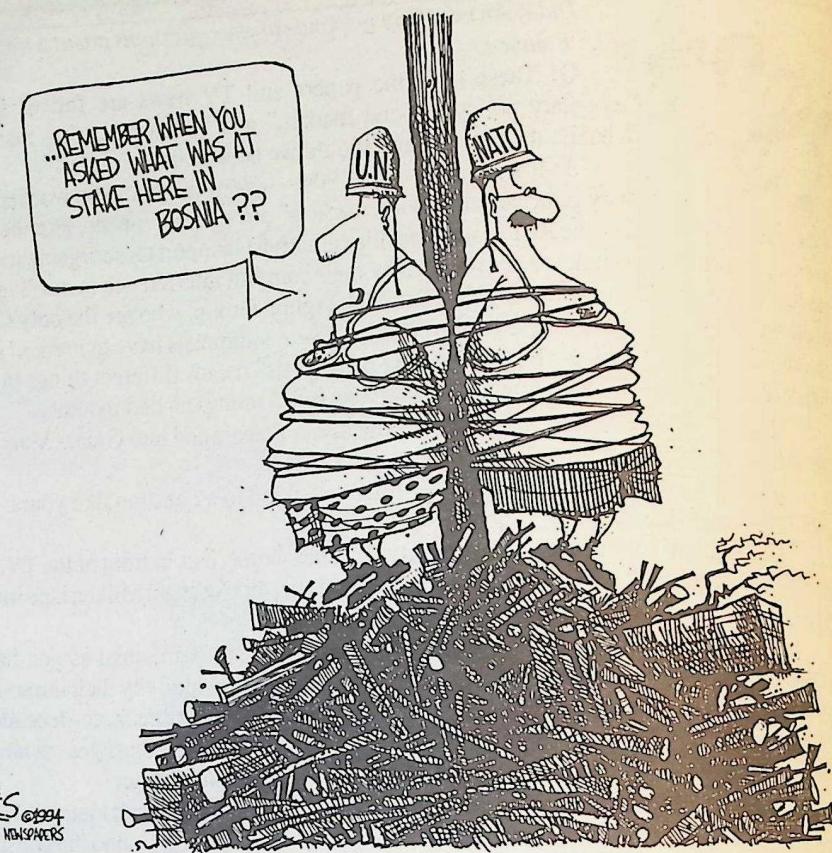
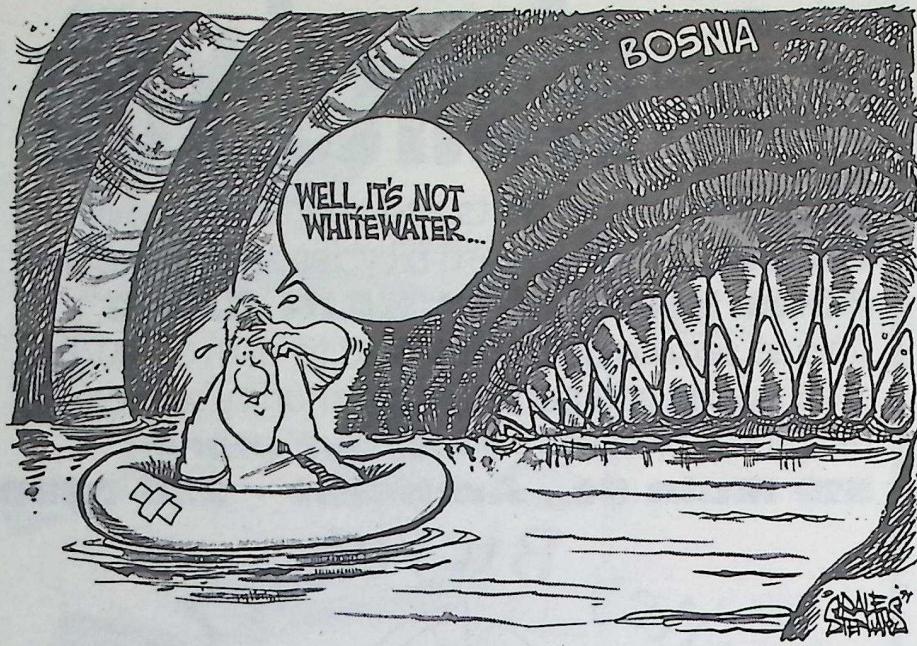
\$5.95 - \$14.95

NOT CHEAP... JUST PRICED RIGHT!
THE LARGEST SELECTION!

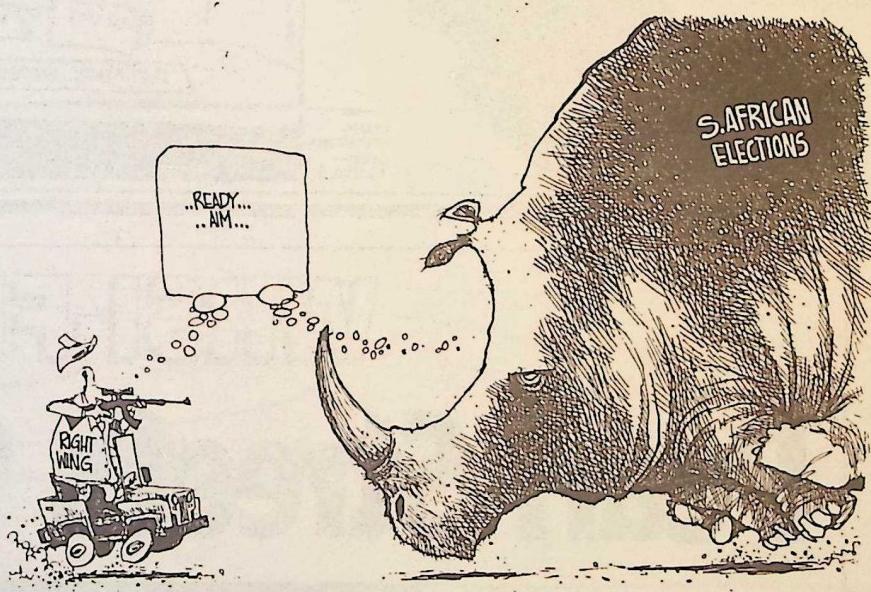
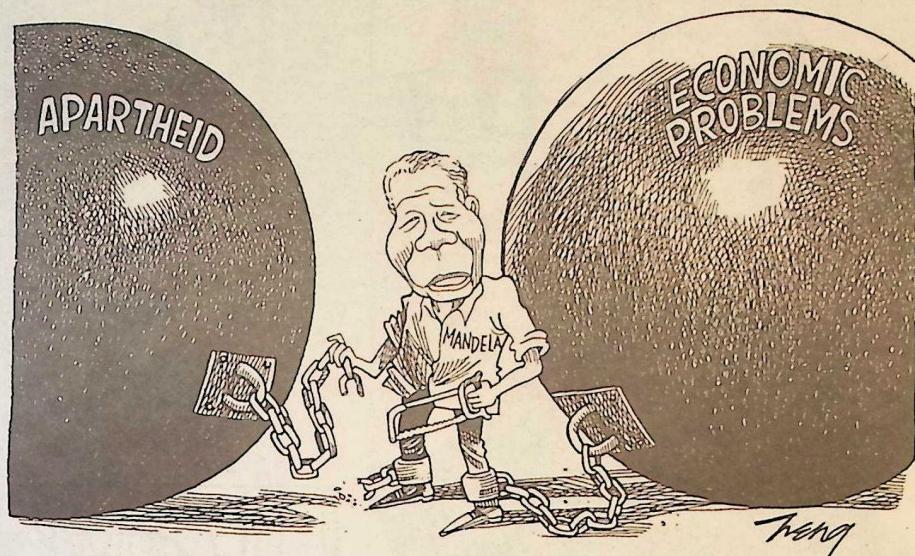
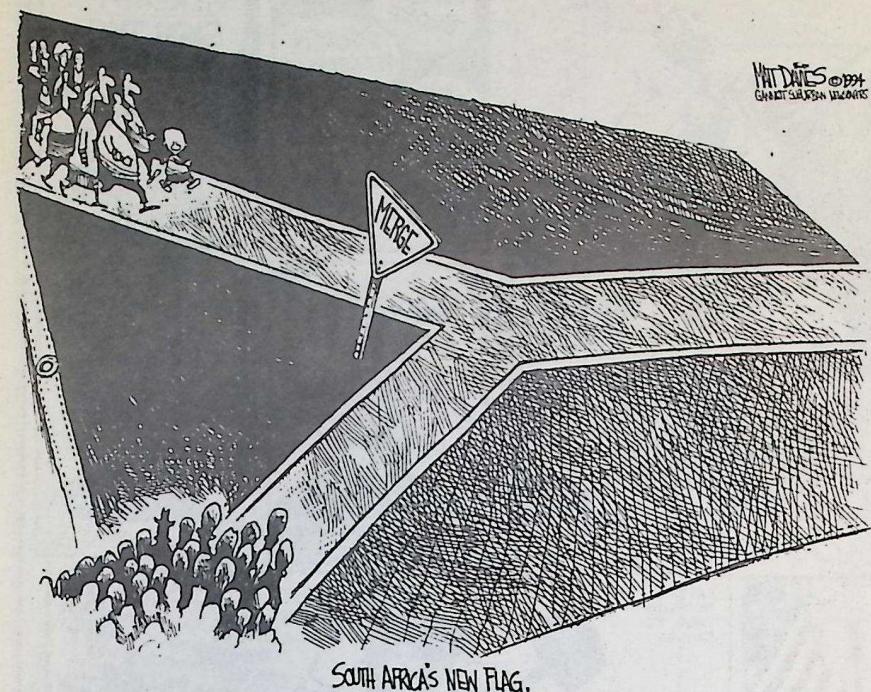
Basic
DUDS
at Faces

MAIN STREET - NORTHAMPTON - OPEN 7 DAYS

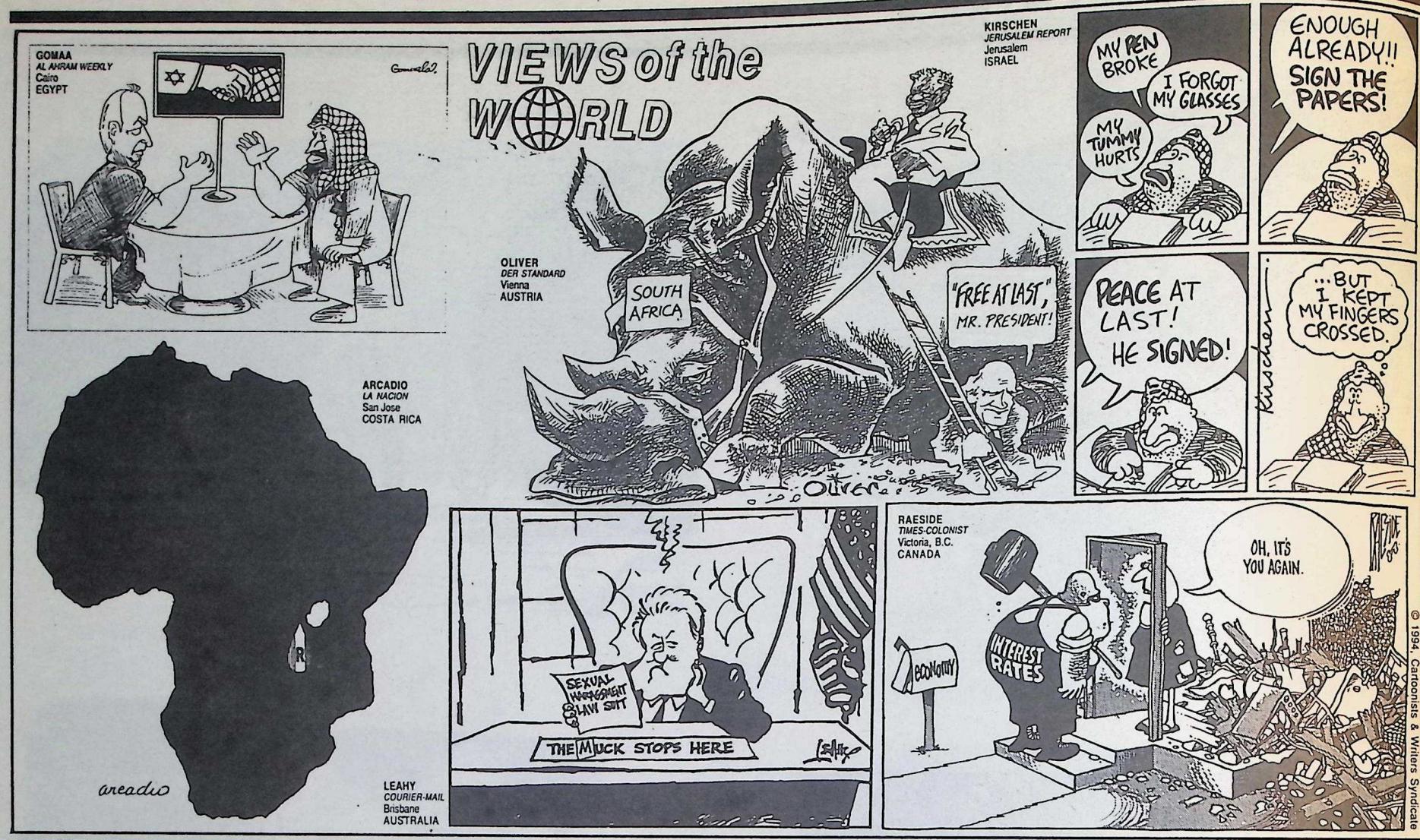
ATROCITIES R US



OUT OF (SOUTH) AFRICA



VIEWS OF THE WORLD



WRSI-FM Salutes Pearl Street's 10th Anniversary

Join Us for some Great Shows in June

QUEEN LATIFAH
Friday, June 3

IVAN NEVILLE
Saturday, June 4

NRBQ
Friday, June 10

ROOMFUL OF BLUES
Saturday, June 11

KING SUNNY ADE
Monday, June 13

LEA DELARIA
Wednesday, June 15

JIMMIE VAUGHAN
Thursday, June 16

Listen to Buddy Rubbish in the morning the week of May 30th. Each day of that week
Pearl Street and WRSI will give away a month long free pass for two
The month long pass is good for admission to these events and others

Wed.-Gay Night, Thur. - 18 & over, Fri.-DJ Lance (21+), Sat.-Club HMP
Special Events: Fashion Show and Aids Benefit (6/11), Family Fun Day(6/18)
Battle of the DJ's (6/9)



95.3 WRSI

ADRIAN BELEW
Friday, June 17

JOHNNY COPELAND
Saturday, June 18

JUNIOR BROWN
Thursday, June 23

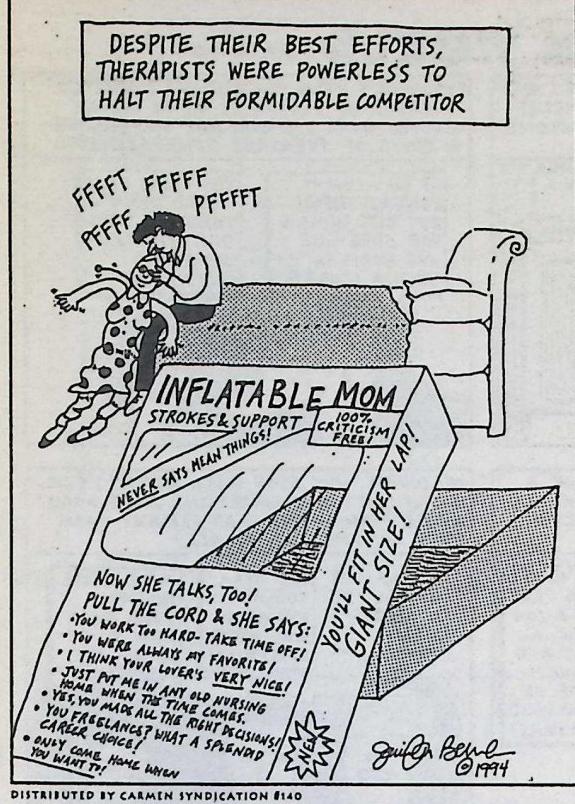
MAHLATHINI & MAHOTELLA QUEENS
Friday, June 24

TOWER OF POWER
Monday, June 27

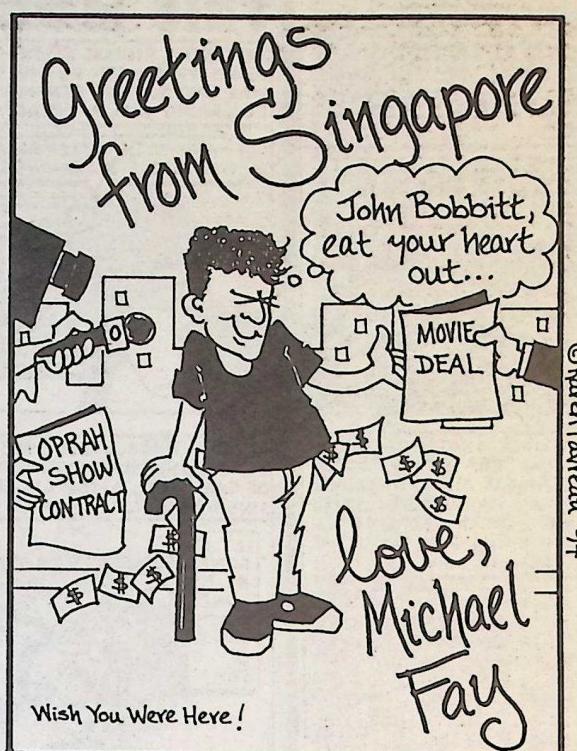
ZAP MAMA
Tuesday, June 28

Pearl Street Nightclub, 10 Pearl Street, Northampton, MA • 584-7771

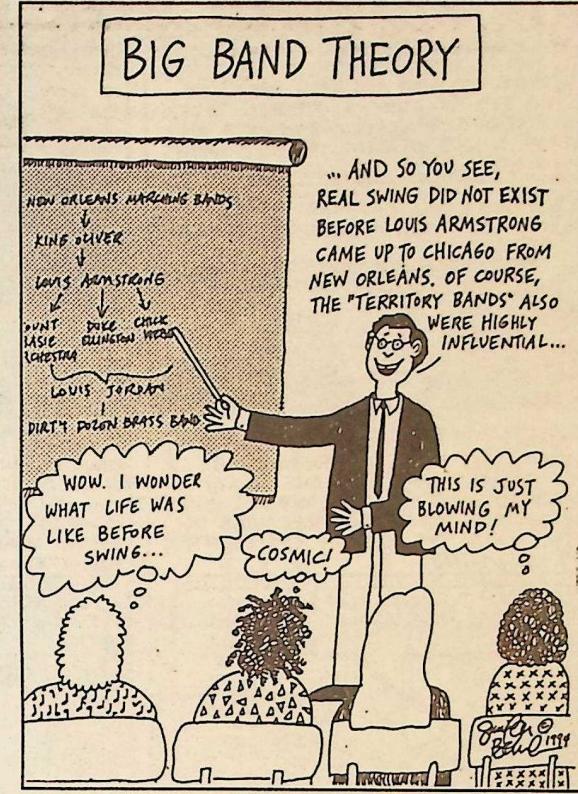
BEYOND POLITIX



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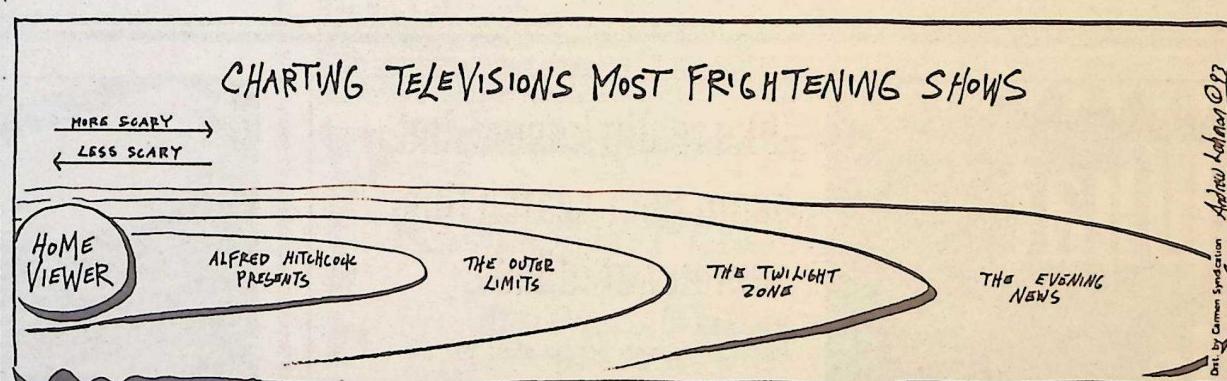
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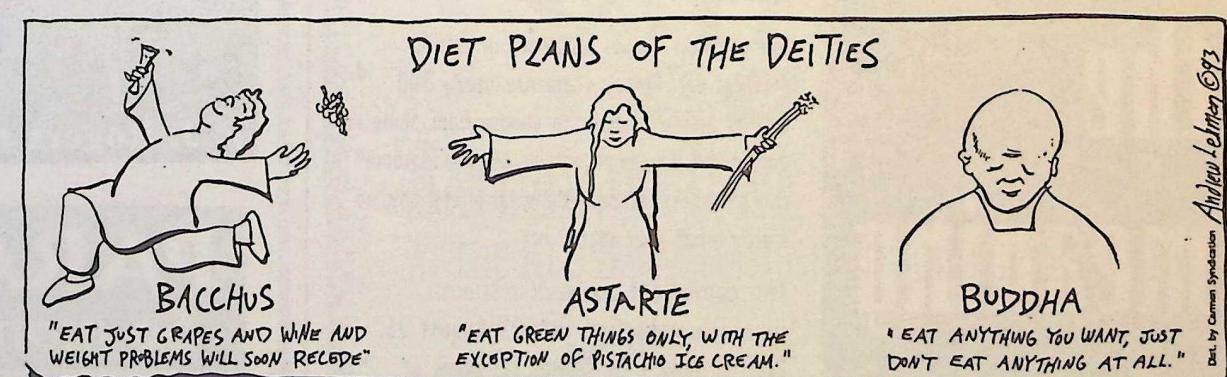
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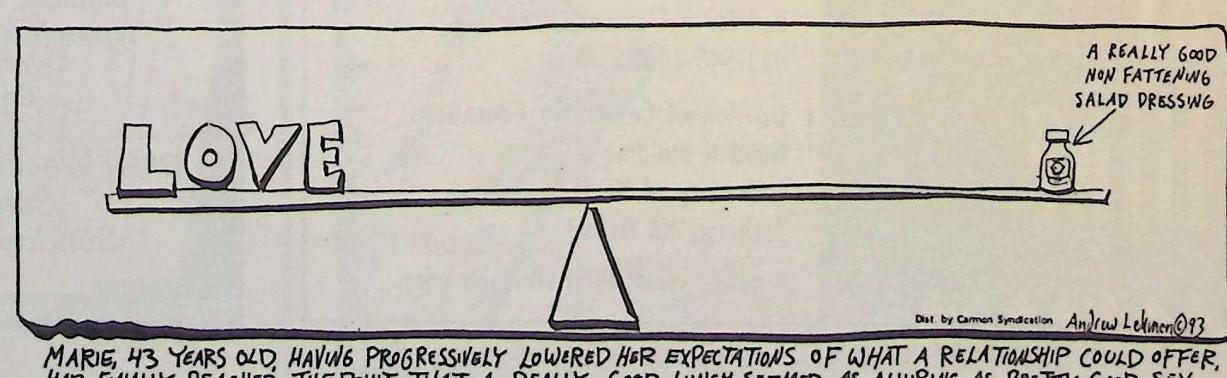
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THIS MODERN WORLD BY TOM TOMORROW

THIS MODERN WORLD

THE LAWS OF SUPPLY AND DEMAND DICTATE THAT AS THE JOBLESS RATE DROPS, WAGES INCREASE... THE FEDERAL RESERVE HAS BEEN TRYING TO FORESTALL THIS BY RAISING INTEREST RATES-- IN AN ATTEMPT TO SLOW JOB GROWTH AND MAINTAIN A NICE, HEALTHY UNEMPLOYMENT RATE OF AT LEAST 8 MILLION AMERICANS...

AND WHERE DID YOU READ THAT LAMEBRAIN LEFT-WING CONSPIRACY THEORY?

UM... ON THE FRONT PAGE OF THE NEW YORK TIMES, ACTUALLY...

TWO PERCENT OF THE POPULATION OWNS HALF THE STOCKS AND BONDS IN THIS COUNTRY... EIGHTY PERCENT OF AMERICANS DO NOT PLAY THE MARKETS AT ALL... AND YET WHEN THE PRIORITIES OF WALL STREET ARE IN CONFLICT WITH THE REST OF THE COUNTRY, GUESS WHO WINS...

HEY--WE'RE THE ONES WHO CREATE THE JOBS AROUND HERE, PAL!

AHEM... WITHIN CERTAIN LIMITS, OF COURSE...

IT IS A RESPONSE TO WALL STREET'S BELIEF THAT RISING WAGES CAUSE INFLATION... OF COURSE, IT WOULD BE EQUALLY VALID TO BLAME ESCALATING PROFIT MARGINS, BUT THIS IS RARELY MENTIONED...

IT'S ALL A MATTER OF PERSPECTIVE... IS THE CLASS WAR HALF EMPTY OR HALF FULL?

CLASS WAR? WHAT'S HE TALKING ABOUT? THIS IS AMERICA!

IF YOU DOUBT THIS, CONSIDER THAT PRESIDENTIAL ADVISOR LAURA D'ANDREA TYSON RECENTLY ATTEMPTED TO REASSURE THE MARKETS WITH THE NEWS THAT WAGES HAVE BEEN STAGNANT FOR SIX MONTHS... WHICH CERTAINLY STRUCK US AS AN ODD THING FOR THE ADMINISTRATION TO BE CROWING ABOUT...

GOOD NEWS, DEAR-- I DIDN'T GET THE RAISE!

OH HONEY--THAT'S WONDERFUL! THE PRESIDENT'S POLICIES ARE A SUCCESS!

THIS MODERN WORLD

TOM TOMORROW © 1994

LAST WEEK, RICHARD NIXON--A MAN WHO NEEDLESSLY PROLONGED AN EVIL WAR FOR YEARS-- WAS LAID TO REST BENEATH A TOMBSTONE DECLARING HIM A "PEACEMAKER"...

-- AND WITH PEACEMAKERS LIKE THIS, WHO NEEDS WARMONGERS?



POSTHUMOUS MEDIA COMMENTARY CONSISTED PRIMARILY OF FLUFFY EULOGIES WHICH GLODED OVER VIETNAM AND WATERGATE IN FAVOR OF PLEASANT GENERALITIES...

HE WAS--UM-- CONTROVERSIAL... BUT ONE THING'S FOR SURE--HE WAS BORN IN YORBA LINDA!

YES--AND FEW WOULD DENY THAT HE WAS OUR THIRTY-SEVENTH PRESIDENT!

ACTION McNEWS

OF COURSE, WHY STOP WITH NIXON? HECK, IF YOU CAN'T SAY SOMETHING NICE ABOUT A DEAD PERSON--ANY DEAD PERSON--THEN DON'T SAY ANYTHING AT ALL!

AL CAPONE
THE AYA-TOLLAH
KHOMEINI
WAS QUITE A MARKSMAN!

THAT LIZZIE BORDEN
SURE KNEW HOW TO EXPRESS HER FEELINGS!

What
is
the
meaning
of
life?

Who really knows, but begin your search this summer at UMass.

The UMass Summer Session offers you the opportunity to discover little known facts -- about yourself, about other people, other cultures, other languages, other times.

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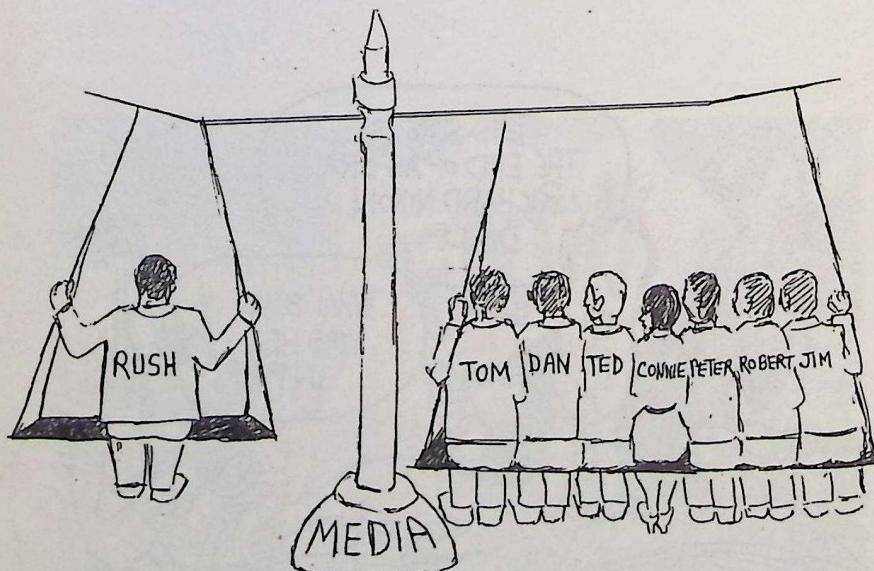
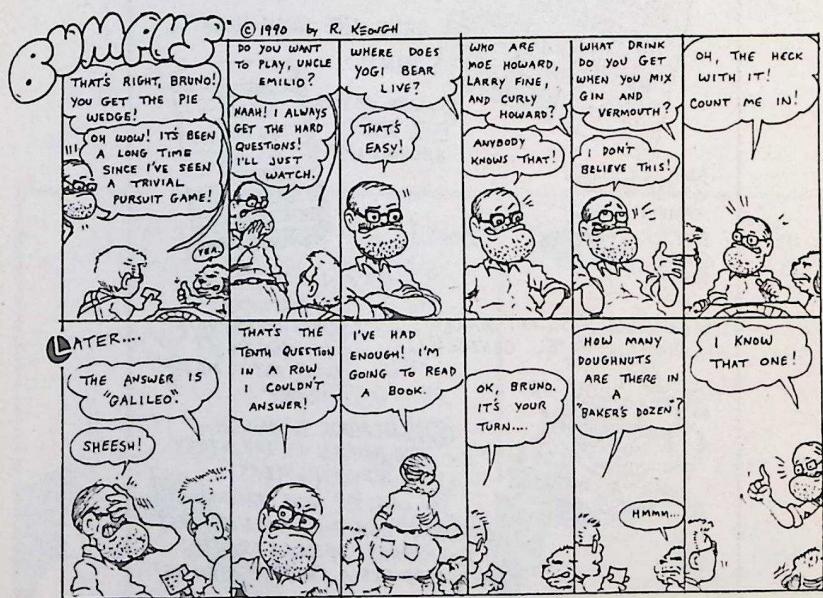
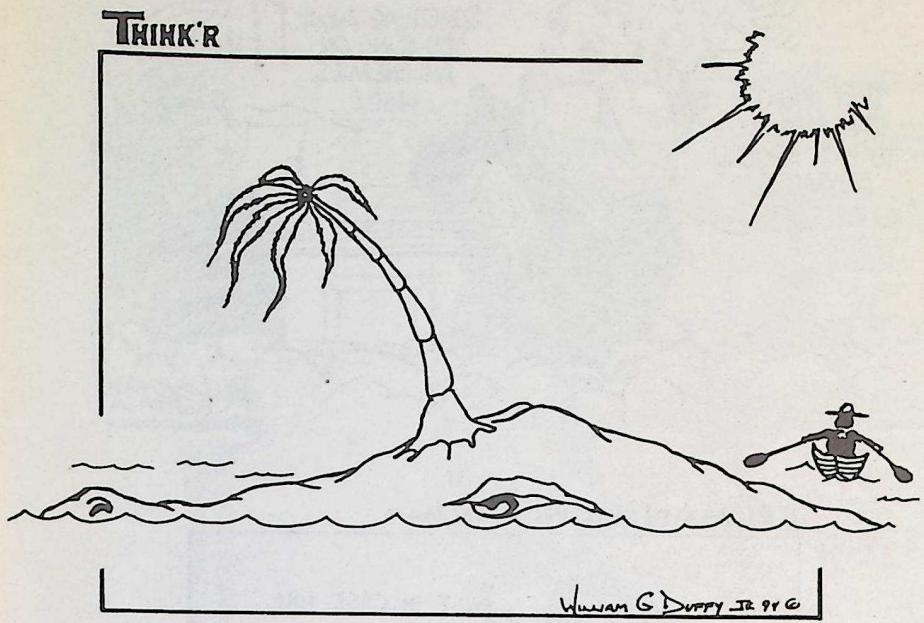
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Dance Party
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Hadley
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Woodbridge's

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daily specials.
Sunday Brunch
All You Can Eat \$9.95
10:30am - 2pm

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~ Is ~
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Anymore!

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(where it turns south)
Amherst, MA
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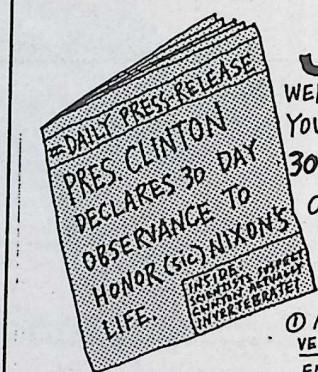
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Wow!
Buy Beer
& Wine
Sundays!
Montague
Mini-Mart

THE TRICKMEISTER

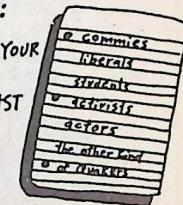


BERMAN BY JENNIFER BERMAN



JUST IN CASE YOU
WERE WONDERING HOW
YOU WERE GOING TO FILL
30 DAYS WITH HONORING
OUR 37th PRESIDENT,
HERE ARE SOME HELPFUL
HINTS:

① MAKE UP YOUR
VERY OWN
ENEMIES LIST



② SPY ON YOUR
COMPETITION!

B.Y.O.
WIRING
DEVICES.

③ DO SOMETHING
BLATANTLY CRIMINAL.
THEN, WHEN YOU GET
CAUGHT, SAY "I AM NOT
A CROOK!"



④ FUN WITH LOGIC!
DO SOMETHING
IN THE HIGHEST OFFICE & STILL GET
EULOGIZED LIKE A SAINT WHEN YOU DIE!

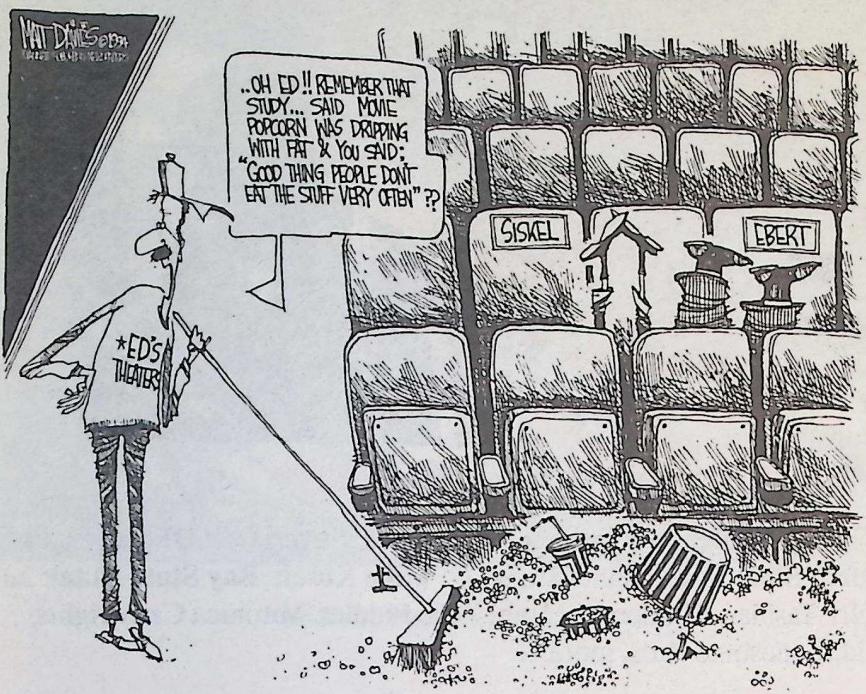
⑤ REMEMBER TO PASS ON
THE MORAL OF THE STORY
TO THE YOUNGSTERS:
YOU CAN SET NEW STANDARDS
OF CORRUPTION, PARANOIA & VILENESS
IN THE HIGHEST OFFICE & STILL GET
EULOGIZED LIKE A SAINT WHEN YOU DIE!

Sorry I can't get in the spirit Berman ©1994

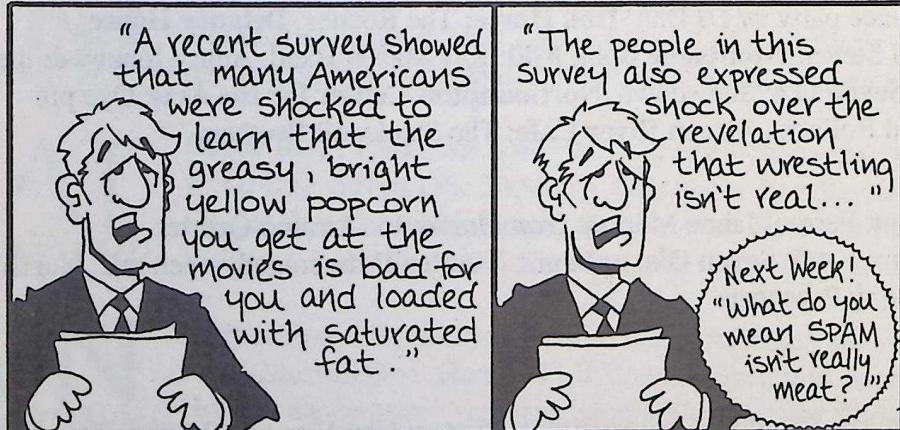
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FAT To Be TIED



©Karen Furreau



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May 20 & 21

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Friday & Saturday
May 27 & 28

Sundown

Sunday
May 29

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Eighteen and Over
HIP-HOP DANCE PARTY
Music by Spin Inc.

Friday
JAMMIN' TO TOP 40
with DJ Bob

Saturday
CLUB HMP
WHMP 99.3 & Pearl St. team up for an explosive
LIVE RADIO DANCE PARTY
with Music by Spin Inc.

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THE EQUALITES

Sat., May 21 - 8:30
J. GEILS BLUES TIME

Sun., May 22 - 7:00
FERRON
Jamie Morton

Tues., May 24 - 8:00
JOHN HIATT
& THE GUILTY DOGS

Fri., June 3 - 7:00 - 18+
QUEEN LATIFA
Solsonics/Fugees

Mon., June 6 - 8:00 - 18+
GWAR

Fri., June 10 - 7:00
NRBQ

Sat., June 11
ROOMFUL OF BLUES

Mon. June 13
KING SUNNY ADE

Wed., June 15
LEA DELARIA

Thurs., June 16
JIMMIE VAUGHN

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WEEKENDS



THU
NINETEEN

Vertex: Selectrocution Iron Horse: Gil Scott-Heron Hadley Pub: open mic blues jam Seven O's: DJ dance club Pearl Street: 18+ dance music by Spin, Inc. North Star: Boyz Night Out, w/ DJ Mike Kusek Bay State Hotel: 2nd Annual Tribute to Gram Parsons — Barry & Holly Tashian, Gordon Titcomb, Zeke Fiddler, Veronica Cartwrights, Scud Mt. Boys, Painesville Lanes, Amy Fairchild, Lonesome Bros, more....

FRI
TWENTY

Pearl Street: Equalites, plus club music w/ DJ Lance Bay State Hotel: The Lilys, Tizzy, The Veronica Cartwrights Seven O's: Showdown Delaney House: LaValley Duo Green River Cafe: Tony Bird Northampton Center for the Arts: Grandfather (work in progress by Nathan Guisinger) Peking Garden/Humor Works: showcase & open mic Iron Horse: The Roches Vertex: Hard Core Show North Star: Graduation dance, w/ DJ Betsy Montague Book Mill: Wildest Dreams

SAT
TWENTYONE

Vertex: Selectrocution Hadley Pub: Island dance party w/ DJ Dan Iron Horse: The Roches Delaney House: LaValley Duo North Star: Dance party, w/ DJ Steven Montague Book Mill: Ray Mason Band, Angry Johnny & the Killbillies Pearl Street: J. Geils Blues Time Seven O's: Showdown Northampton Center for the Arts: Oye presents Danse Afrique Bay State Hotel: Big Bad Bollocks Green River Cafe: The Stockwell Brothers

SUN
TWENTYTWO

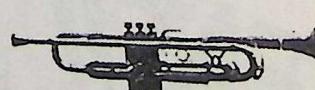
Green River Cafe: Poetry reading Pearl Street: Ferron, Jaime Morton Iron Horse: Joe Lavano Quartet Northampton Brewery: Amy Fairchild, Hydrox 1-4-5 Seven O's: open mic Hadley Pub: comedy open mic North Star: Retro dance night Vertex: Rapid Symphony Psychosis

MON
TWENTYTHREE

Bay State Hotel: Blue Monday, w/ Ed Vadas & The Fabulous Heavyweights Vertex: Gay Nite w/ DJ Steve Iron Horse: Music Contract Workshop/ Open Stage (5:30)

TUE
TWENTYFOUR

Northampton Brewery: open mic, w/ host Dave Boatwright Iron Horse: Savoy Brown Hadley Pub: open mic Pearl Street: John Hiatt & the Guilty Dogs



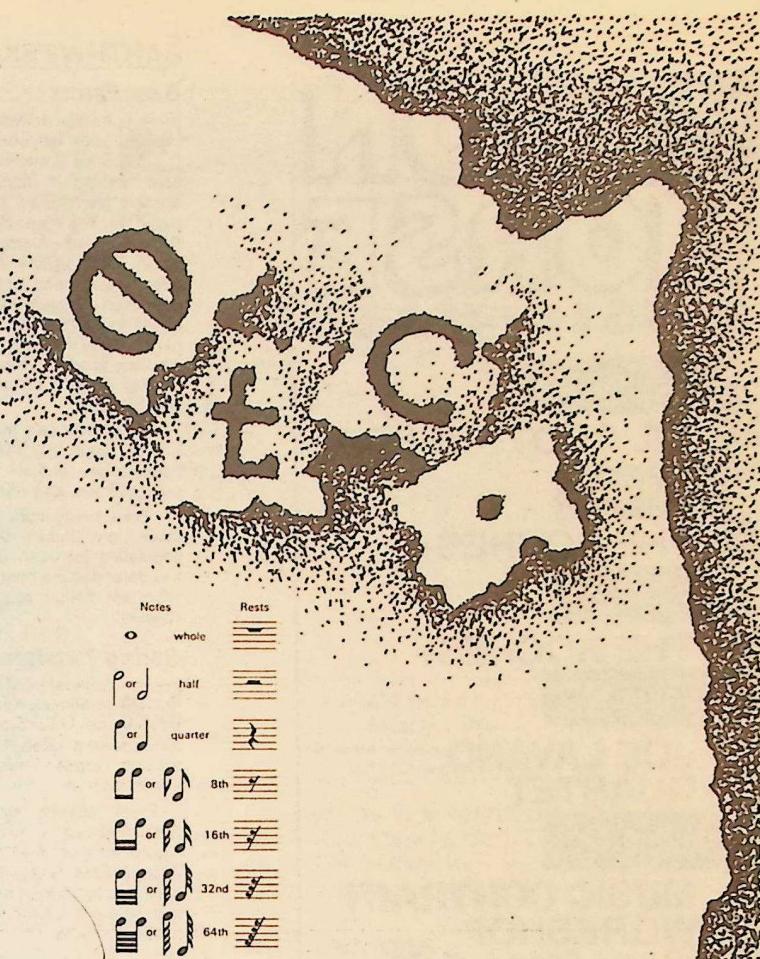
WED
TWENTYFIVE

Hadley Pub: Reggae party North Star: C & W dance night Iron Horse: Charmaine Neville, Zulu Spear Pearl Street: Gay Night — dancing to music by Spin, Inc. Northampton Brewery: Maple Ridge



The Rent Party at the Bay State

Tobey photo



THU
TWENTYSIX

Seven O's: DJ Dance Club Hadley Pub: open mic blues jam Bay State Hotel: Miracle Legion Pearl Street: 18+ hip-hop dancing to music by Spin, Inc. Vertex: Selectrocution Iron Horse: Cowboy Junkies North Star: Boyz Night Out, w/ DJ Mike Kusek

FRI
TWENTYSEVEN

Bay State Hotel: Rock Gods, Rent Party, Cross To Bear North Star: Rugby weekend Pearl Street: Top 40 w/ DJ Lance Seven O's: Sundown Iron Horse: Acoustic Alliance concert, featuring 10 artists Vertex: A & E Showcase Delaney's: Lavalley Duo Green River Cafe: Ed Byrne Jazz Workshop Montague Book Mill: Julia Burrough, leticia Peking Garden/Humor Works: showcase & open mic

SAT
TWENTYEIGHT

Green River Cafe:Lyn Hardy & The New Hohemians North Star: Sue Burkhardt Hadley Pub: Island dance party w/ DJ Dan Seven O's: Sundown Delaney's: Lavalley Duo Bay State Hotel: Godheadsilo, Caroline Know, Zeke Fiddler Northhampton Center for the Arts: Noteable Performers present Cabaret show Iron Horse: Robin & Linda Williams, Lucy Kaplanski Pearl Street: Club HMP, w/ music by Spin, Inc.

SUN
TWENTYNINE

Northampton Brewery: Bamboo Steamers, Angry Johnny & The Killbillies Seven O's: open mic Iron Horse: Frank Morgan Duo Hadley Pub: comedy open mic Montague Book Mill: Song & story swap (4:30) North Star: Holiday dance party Vertex: Cannibal Corpse Bay State Hotel: Dieselmeat, Jasper, Isaak of the Jug Green River Cafe: Jim Henry & Joe Belmont

MON
THIRTY

Vertex: Broken Hope Bay State Hotel: Blue Monday, w/ Ed Vadas & The Fabulous Heavyweights Iron Horse: Greg Piccalo & Heavy Juice Seven O's: Jamboree (D.A.R.E. benefit) — hosted by Sundown (seven bands, 2-9pm), followed by open mic

TUE
THIRTYONE

Northampton Brewery: open mic, Zeke Fiddler & Matt Hunter, hosts Iron Horse: Robert Gordon, Angry Johnny & The Killbillies Hadley Pub: open mic Vertex: Broken Hope Green River Cafe: open mic, w/ host Rob Skelton

WED
ONE

Iron Horse: Devonsquare, Rachel Bissex Pearl Street: Gay Night w/ music by Spin, Inc. Northampton Brewery: Equalites, Black Rebels (outdoor concert) Hadley Pub: Reggae party North Star: C & W dancing

Cyclonic Disaster

 More than 175 bodies were recovered in Bangladesh after a devastating tropical cyclone ripped across southern areas of the country. At least 7,000 people were injured when winds of up to 140 miles per hour caused widespread damage on the northeast shore of the Bay of Bengal. Many of the deaths occurred at the Burmese refugee camps along the highway linking Cox's Bazar and Teknaf.

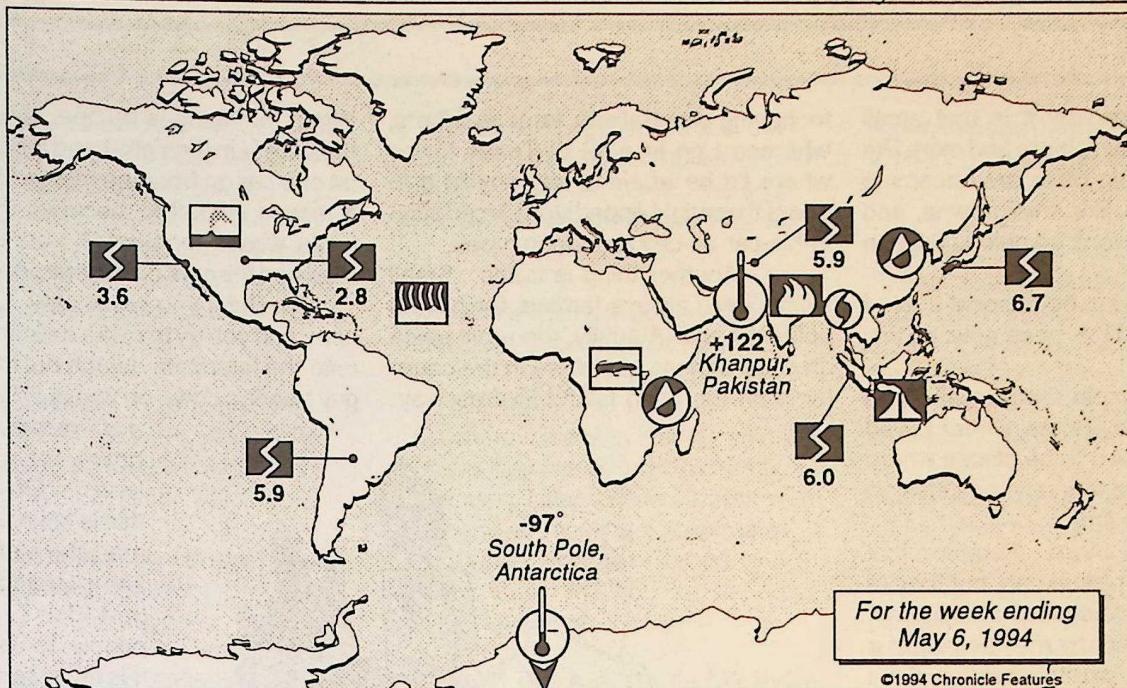
Red Locusts

 Tanzania is threatened by a massive invasion of red locusts that is unprecedented in scale for the past 50 years. Jackson Makwetta, minister for agriculture, told reporters that large colonies of the pests, still undergoing metamorphosis, were spotted in the traditional breeding and outbreak areas. They are expected to migrate soon into Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, and Zaire. Makwetta urged the Kenya-based International Red Locust Control Organization for Central and Southern Africa to take immediate measures to combat the invasion in its early stages.

Droughts

 Beijing residents breathed a sigh of relief as a rain-storm broke the capital's 16-month drought. More than one inch of rain fell during a 20-hour period. The storm will help the region's agriculture temporarily, but much more is needed to replenish severely depleted water supplies.

Recent regular and heavy rainfall in many parts of Kenya has eased fears of famine, and spared the country's vital tea and coffee export crops. As much as three times the normal weekly rainfall occurred in some areas of the country during the first few days of May.

**Earthquakes**

 Sea levels rose briefly and items on shelves wobbled as a magnitude 6.7 tremor occurred deep below the seabed off Japan's Kyushu Island. No damage or injuries were reported from the 30-second quake, but a tsunami warning was issued briefly for many coastal areas of southwest Japan.

Earth movements also were felt in western Sumatra, the mountains between Uzbekistan and Afghanistan, northern Argentina, Oklahoma, and Southern California.

Eruption

 Anak Krakatau (Krakatoa) Volcano spewed a stream of glowing lava 200 feet into the early morning sky above Straits of Sunda. The 20-minute eruption awakened inhabitants 16 miles away on the beaches of West Java. Krakatau produced hundreds of tremors and quakes during the two days prior to the fiery eruption.

Geothermal Jolt

 A sharp earthquake in Wyoming's Yellowstone National Park during late March has caused its famed geysers to undergo dramatic changes. While Old Faithful has remained steadfast, Monarch erupted for the first time since 1913, sending a growing column of rocks, mud, and water about 15 feet high. The Ledge Geyser also erupted after 15 years of dormancy, with angled columns of water up to 130 feet high.

Ocean Warming

 Oceanographic studies conducted during a recreation of Columbus's first voyage to the Americas has indicated that the world's oceans are indeed warming up, but not as the "greenhouse" theories predicted. Instead of the expected warming at levels near the surface, Britain's James Rennell Center for Ocean Circulation found the most pro-

nounced rise in temperatures has occurred at a layer about 3,500 feet deep. The findings were published in the science journal *Nature*.

Fire Demons

 Terrified residents of a hillside village in northwest Nepal's Bardiyah District are trying to figure out why fires are mysteriously igniting on their rooftops and haystacks. Freak atmospheric conditions beneath a blazing spring sun may be the cause, and 10 houses have been reduced to ashes by the flames so far. Sometimes, one blaze suddenly will go out in full view of the villagers, only to shift to another roof nearby. Fearing some "unseen force," villagers who can afford it have begun replacing their roofs with tiles.

Additional Sources: U.S. Climate Analysis Center, U.S. Military Joint Typhoon Warning Center at Guam, British Meteorological Office, U.S. Earthquake Information Center, and the World Meteorological Organization.

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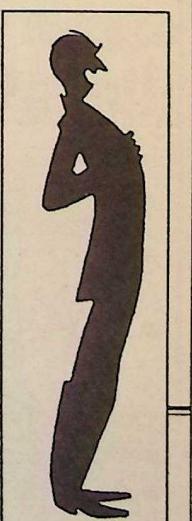
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JOE BOB BRIGGS

I wonder why it is that small towns are becoming more and more like big cities, and big cities are becoming more and more like small towns, and pretty soon we won't be able to tell one from the other.

I've lived in both, spent a lot of time in both, and I've been noticing this for a long time.

For example, really small towns — like Muleshoe, Texas, where I lived for a while — used to be places where *everybody* spoke to everybody else on the street *all the time*.

Not any more. People might wave from their pickup cab, but they're mostly *isolated* inside their cars all day. They drive around, *by themselves*, in a motor vehicle, doing stuff that they don't discuss with anybody else. The only time they talk is on the phone.

So where *do* people talk on the street?

Go to the North Beach area of San Francisco, or the northern part of downtown Chicago, or Greenwich Village. Those are all places where the neighborhoods get smaller and smaller, the buildings are all old and under historic protection, the sidewalks are wide, and people *walk around*.

Therefore, they have to *talk*. In fact, all three of these places are known

for having *great* talkers, famous talkers, whereas I go to a lot of Texas towns where I'd be *afraid* to say anything to one of those tight-lipped stern-faced stay-in-his-car-all-day salesman types.

Another thing is traffic. Small towns were always famous for having polite drivers. Actually, the most polite driving I witness anywhere in the country is on the Long Island Expressway.

When that thing is bumper to bumper, the people in the right-hand lane *always* let one car on from the merge lane. So it moves smoothly, because they just kinda weave together the cars on the road and the cars on the entrance ramp.

But if you got to, say, Birmingham, and you try to make a clean merge onto the interstate, *watch out* for some guy bearing down on you at 50 who *will not move*, slow down, or change lanes.

Of course, this is his *right*. You are, after all, the person merging. You just don't *expect* people to *insist* on this right. I got impatient with a slow driver in Little Rock, Arkansas one time, passed him on the right shoulder, and thought he was gonna *kill me*. He chased me for miles. They talk about freeway shootings in El Lay, but they haven't seen the look on a driver's face who thinks he's been

wronged in Savannah, Georgia.

Finally, there's the old "small towns as a place to raise kids" argument. Small towns have become *terrible* places to raise kids. The kids are so bored they turn to drugs and booze as soon as they hit junior high.

What kinda places do kids *love*?

Places with subways and street life and major-league baseball stadiums and ballet classes and weird people selling hot dogs on the corner. Where do you go in a small town? *The mall*. The place that looks like every *other* place in the country.

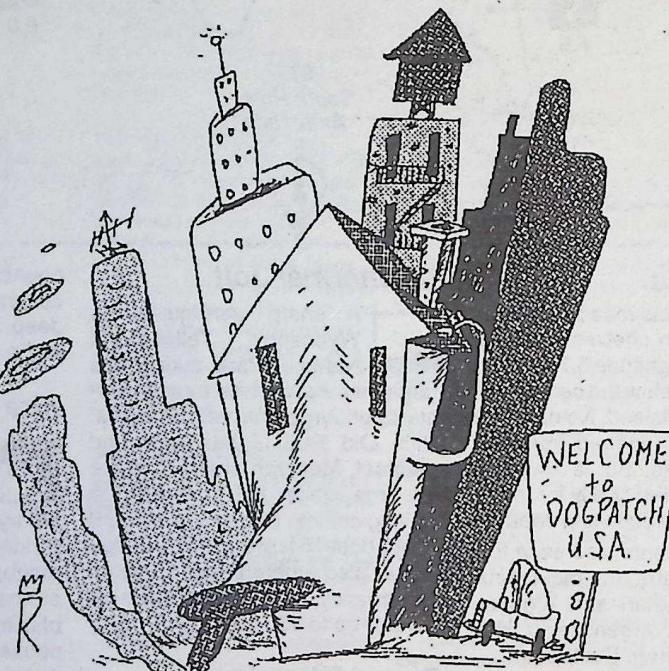
This is what cities were always accused of — being full of boring buildings that looked all the same.

I've met elementary school children in Leakey, Texas, and I've met elementary school children in New York City. Guess which ones were more articulate?

I don't know where this "cities are bad for children" thing started, but it's a big fat lie.

That's my opinion, anyhow. Now. Go ahead and shoot me.

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TAKE IT OR LEAVE IT by L.M. Boyd

Q. Are any Shaker colonies left?

A. One, with eight members, at Sabbathday Lake, Maine. The hard physical labor and the monastic, celibate lifestyle tend to discourage new applicants.

Scientists think still-undiscovered animal species on earth outnumber those they know about.

According to a recent survey of 100 major U.S. corporations, the average workday lunch period is exactly 49 minutes, 31 seconds.

The longest-lasting single earthquake of record was the Alaska shakeup in 1964. It went on for four minutes.

Police say one-third of all the parked automobiles in Paris, France, are parked illegally.

If you were born before 1952, you came into the world before the word "automation" appeared in any dictionary.

According to Canadian researchers, 19 percent of married women and 21 percent of married men have affairs.

Q. How much would the infamous 30 pieces of silver in the Bible have been worth to a citizen of the day?

A. If they were the Phoenician coins struck in Tyre between 126 BC and 65 AD, as many scholars believe, then four months' wages for a harvest hand.

Pharmacists who know the history of their profession say the words "elixir" or "tincture" on labels usually have been synonyms for "alcohol."

Hinduism is the only current major religion that still calls for the worship of goddesses.

If all the lawns in America were patched into one enormous lawn, it would be about the size of Pennsylvania.

Q. What proportion of the adults in the United States don't drink alcoholic beverages?

A. About 35 percent.

The Isle of Man in the Irish Sea is not named after the male gender. The name is short for "Manannan Mac Lir," the legendary Celtic lord of the sea.

If you still beat egg whites in a bowl, be advised: they'll beat up faster and stiffer in a copper bowl. The egg-white protein conalbumin bonds with copper ions.

Cervantes defined a proverb as "a short sentence derived from long experience."

Catching mice is evidently not an instinctive characteristic of cats. Laboratory kittens have been raised with laboratory mice as playmates.

But when older cats that kill are introduced, the kittens learn to do so, and never unlearn it.

Ancient art suggests the first cowboys to rope bulls with lassos were Egyptians in the Nile valley.

Q. Why do six times more men than women over age 65 commit suicide?

A. Analysts say because so many more men than women have worked all their lives towards goals that are no longer valid after retirement.

By common definition, a "snowstorm" turns into a "blizzard" when the temperature drops below 20 degrees F. and the wind rises above 35 mph.

Kansas law permits you to eat a snake on Saturday, but not on Sunday.

"Enriched" and "fortified" on food labels don't mean the same thing. "Enriched" means they've added a nutrient that was originally in the food but diminished in processing. "Fortified" means they've added a nutrient that wasn't originally in the food at all.

Men growing beards can figure they'll add another inch every eight weeks.

Customs inspectors on the Maldives — islands off India — look for four things when they check out tourists' luggage: liquor, dogs, pigs, and graven images.

A shark, stripped of its teeth, can grow a new set in about a week.

Not everyone who drinks coffee black knows this: cream keeps it hot. Cream first cools coffee just enough, then forms an insulating layer of fat molecules across the surface to hold in the heat that's left.

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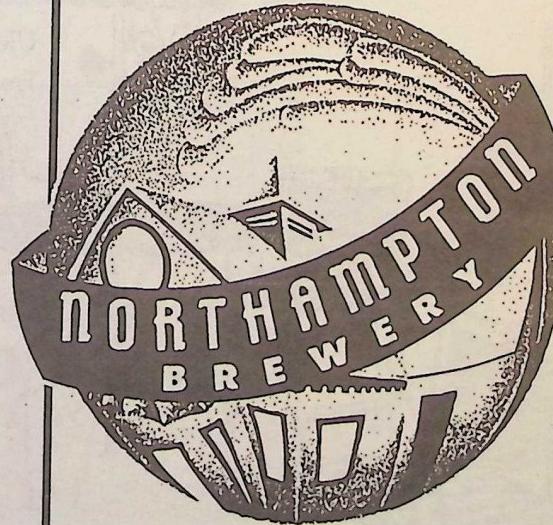
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THE FAR SIDE

BY GARY LARSON



Moments before he was ripped to shreds, Edgar vaguely recalled having seen that same obnoxious tie earlier in the day.



Until finally being replaced by its more popular and deadly cousin, the Bowie spoon was often used to settle disputes in the Old West.



In the stadiums of ancient Rome, the most feared trial was the rub-your-stomach-and-pat-your-head-at-the-same-time event.

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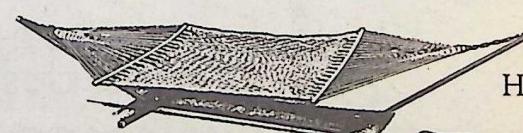


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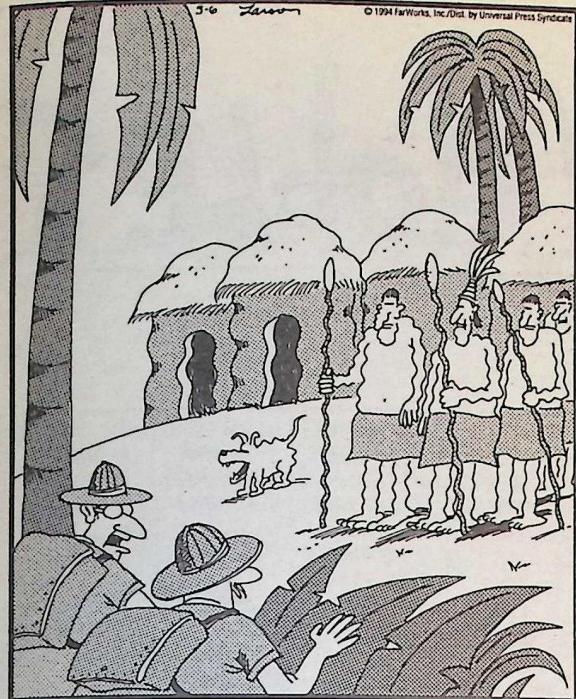
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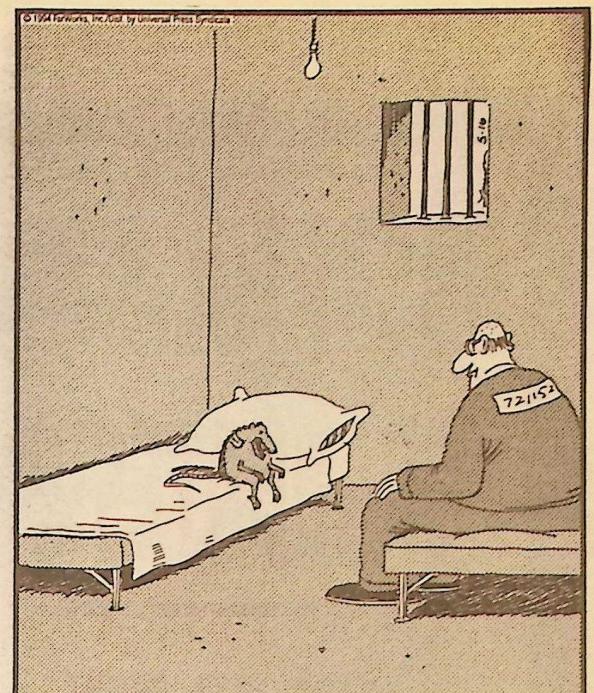
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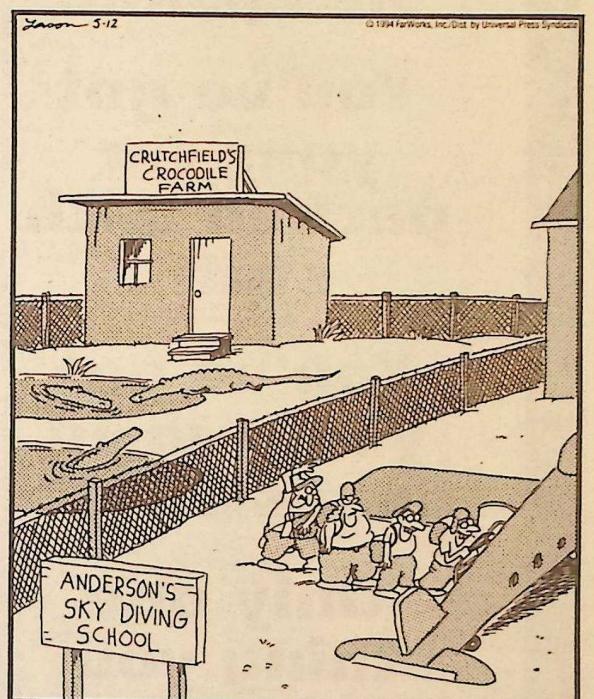
"I would have gotten away scot free if I had just gotten rid of the evidence. ... But, shoot — I'm a packrat."



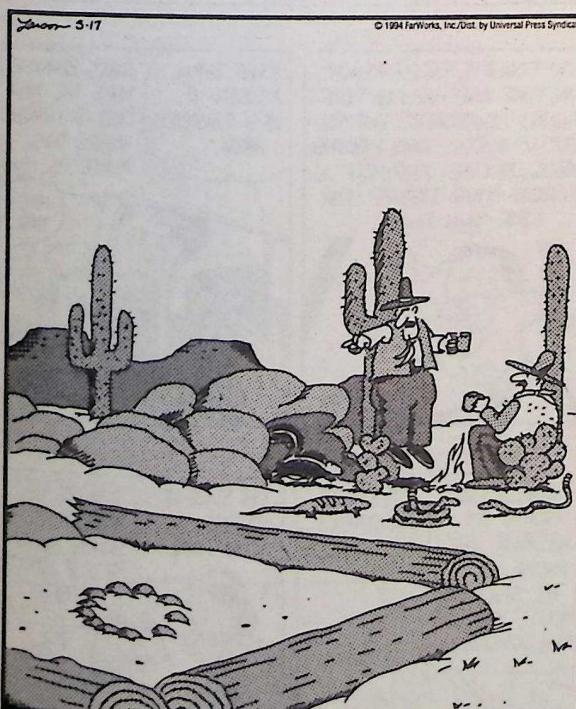
The modern anteater



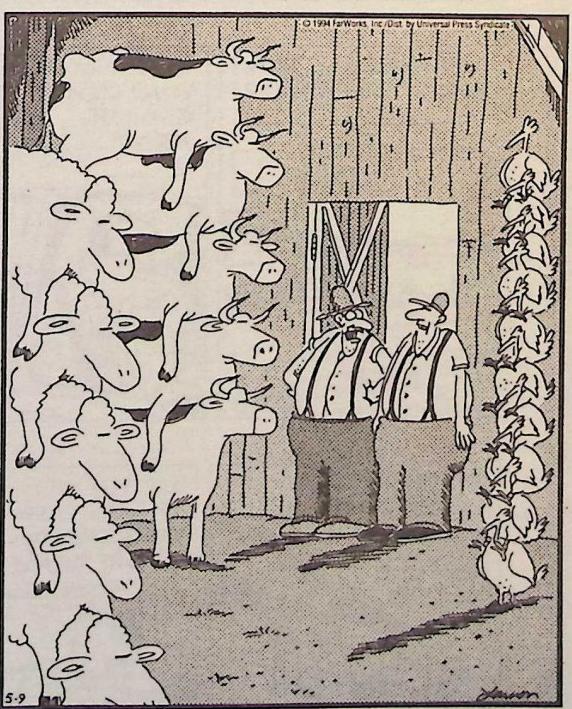
"The truth is, Stan, I'd like a place of my own."



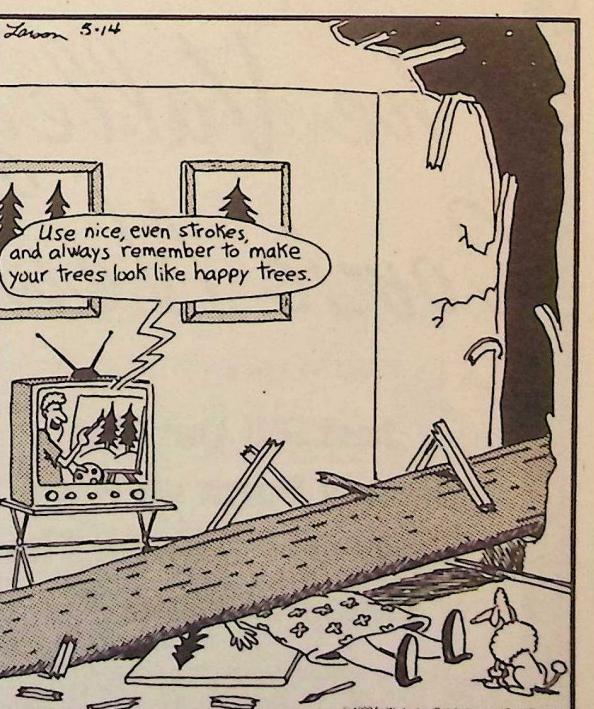
More trouble brewing



"Oh, man, Clem! To add insult to injury, I see a great campsite right over yonder."



"It's the only way to go, Frank. Why, my life's changed, ever since I discovered Stackable Livestock.™"



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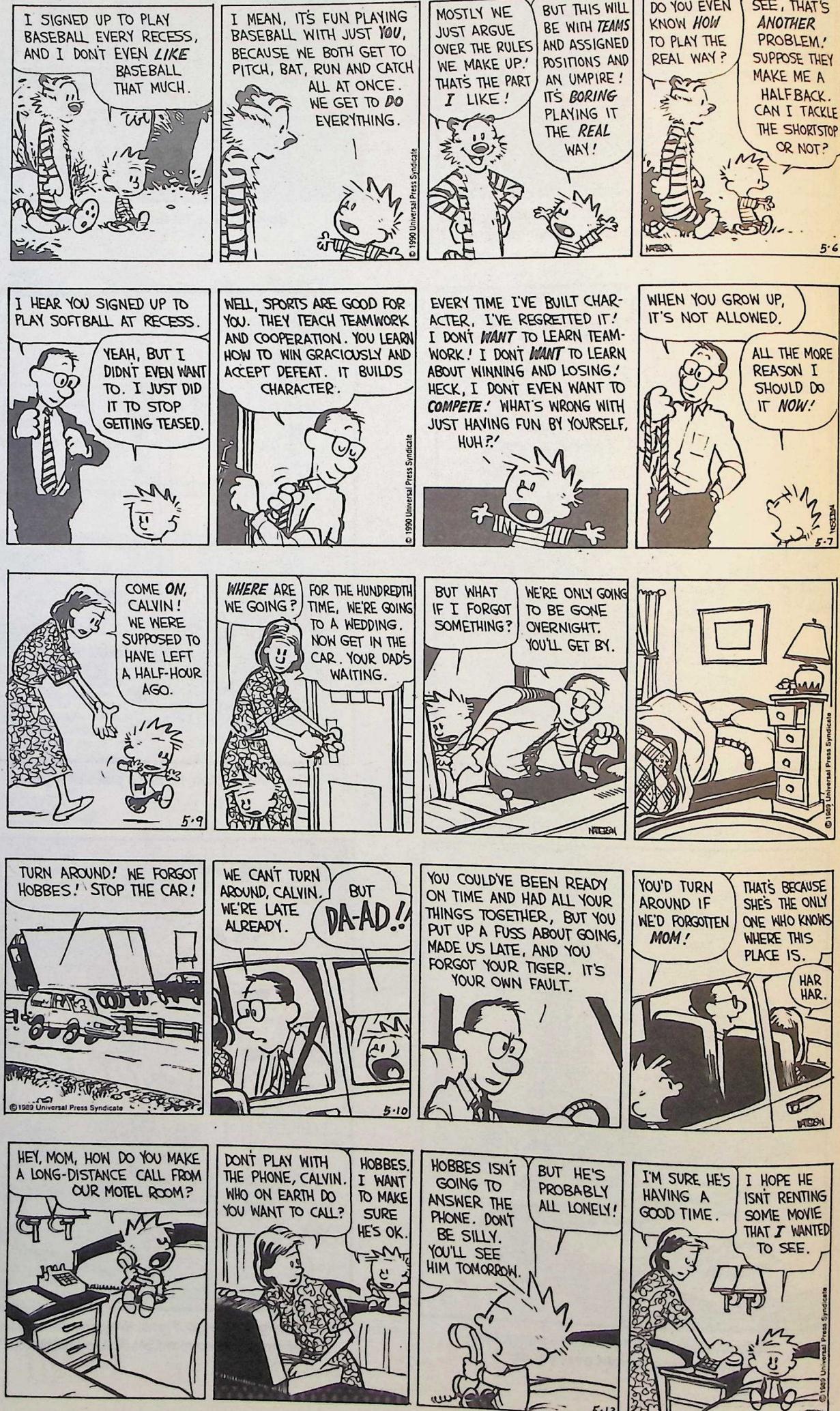
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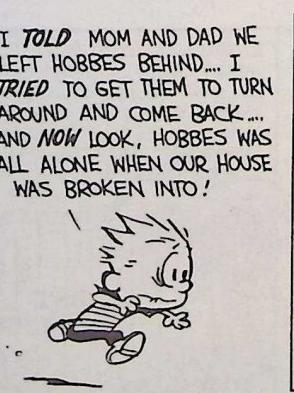
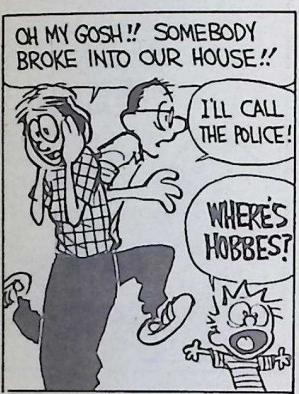
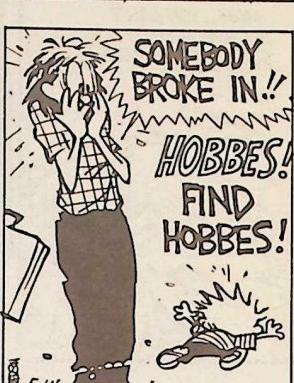
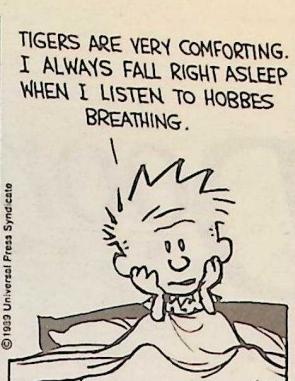
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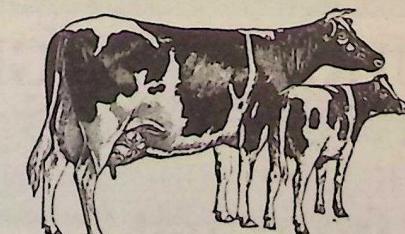


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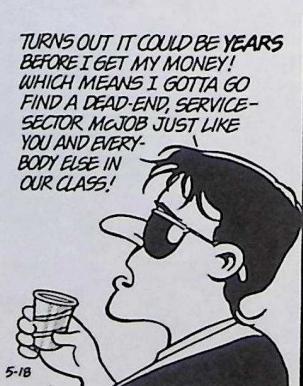
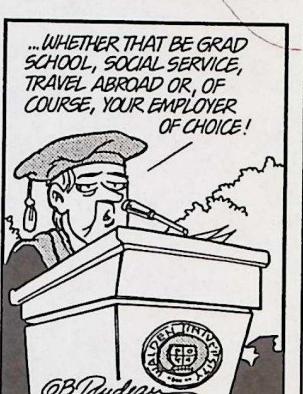
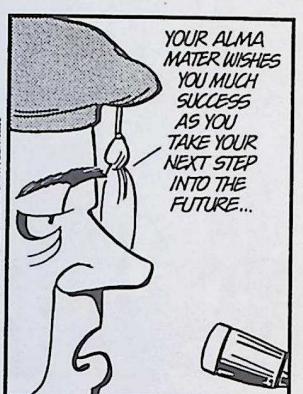
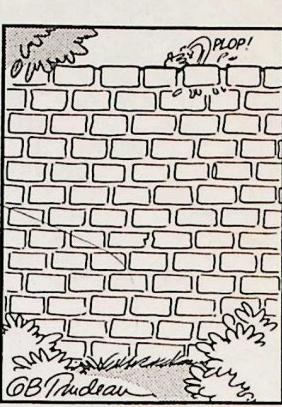
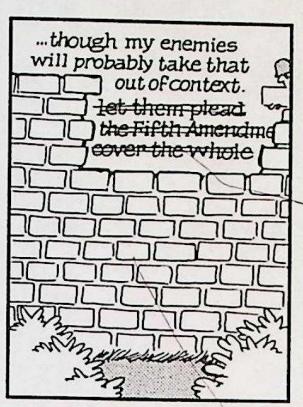
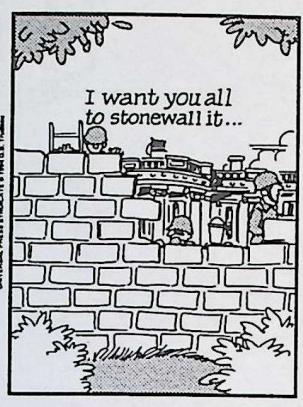
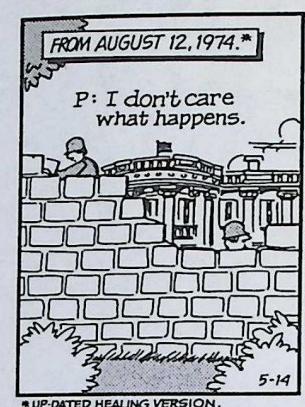
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